

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 220550Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4336
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6929

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, SF, PFOR
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF EXPULSION OF
SOUTH AFRICA FROM UN

REF: A) CANBERRA 6899; B) LONDON 13654; C) USUN 4193

1. EMBASSY COMPARED NOTES WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION
IN CANBERRA OCT 22 ON AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDE REGARDING AN-
TICIPATED RES IN SECURITY COUNCIL CALLING FOR EXPULSION
OF SOUTH AFRICA. BRITISH GAVE US COPY OF CALLAGHAN
MESSAGE OF OCT 19 (ASSUME TEXT AVAILABLE TO DEPT AND
TO EMBASSY LONDON) AND REVIEWED CALL MADE BY BRITISH
HIGH COMMISSIONER, SIR MORRICE JAMES, ON SECRETARY OF
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ALAN RENOUF, OCT 21.

2. RENOUF GAVE SIR MORRICE RATHER PESSIMISTIC PRELIM-
INARY ASSESSMENT ON AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDE, THOUGH HE MADE
IT CLEAR THAT AUSTRALIAN DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE.
WITH WILLESEE ILL IN PERTH (HE HAS INFLUENZA) DECISION,
WILL BE TAKEN BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, THOUGH THIS
WAS PROBABLY INEVITABLE, CONSIDERING HIS VIEWS ON
SOUTH AFRICA. RENOUF HAD DISCUSSION WITH WHITLAM OVER
WEEKEND ON SOUTH AFRICAN EXPULSION. WHITLAM SAID THAT,
IF AUSTRALIA'S VOTE IN SECURITY COUNCIL IS DECIDING VOTE,
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HE FELT AUSTRALIA SHOULD VOTE FOR EXPULSION OF SOUTH

AFRICA, WHOSE RACIAL POLICIES HE THOROUGHLY DETESTS.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH RENOUF WHITLAM DISPOSED QUICKLY OF ARGUMENTS AGAINST EXPULSION UNDER HEADINGS OF UNIVERSALITY AND PRECEDENCE. HE FELT THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS SO SPECIAL A CASE THAT LOSS OF ITS MEMBERSHIP WOULD NOT SUBSTANTIALLY HARM UN. FOR SAME REASON, HE DOUBTED EXPULSION OF SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE PRECEDENT FOR ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL, FOR EXAMPLE (WHICH CALLAGHAN HAD CITED IN HIS LETTER). FINALLY, ACCORDING TO RENOUF, WHITLAM SAID THAT, IF SOUTH AFRICA COULD NOT RPT NOT BE EXPELLED FROM UN, DESPITE REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF CHARTER, WHAT USE WAS ARTICLE VI?

4. RENOUF ASKED SIR MORRICE WHETHER BRITISH WOULD VETO RESOLUTION, TO WHICH HE REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW AT THIS POINT. (CALLAGHAN LETTER EMPHASIZES KILLING RES BY MOBILIZING ENOUGH ABSTENTIONS THAT IT FAILS TO PASS.)

5. BRITISH TELL US THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH WHITLAM UNTIL TEXT OF EXPULSION RESOLUTION KNOWN.

6. COMMENT: BRITISH IMPRESSION IS MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN OUR OWN (PARA 4, REF A), BUT REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO WHITLAM ARE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH HIS VERY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA. UNFORTUNATELY, WE BELIEVE THAT REF C IS ALL TOO TRUE. AUSTRALIANS WILL INEVITABLY SERIOUSLY CONSIDER IMPACT OF ABSTENTION ON SOUTH AFRICAN RES ON CHANCES OF FOREIGN MINISTER WILLESSEE'S ELECTION TO PRESIDENCY OF 1975 GA. DFA HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT RECOMMENDATION OF AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT REP, SIR LAURENCE MCINTYRE, LIKELY TO BE OF VERY GREAT IMPACT ON WHITLAM'S DECISION. FULLY BRIEFING MCINTYRE ON U.S. VOTING INTENTIONS MAY HAVE USEFUL EFFECT.
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